

# **Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**May 25, 2011**

**A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 5 p.m. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman.**

**Member Present: Anne Baptista, Maryalice Huggins, John Pinto, Austin Pendergast, and Ralph Thomas**

**Members Absent: Dick Barker, Cheryl Boergesson, Nicholas Coogan, Christin Lambiase, Ed Sisk, and Steve Ponte**

**Ex-officio Members:**

**Present: Bruce Long, Town Council Liaison; Dick Adams, Planning Board; Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission**

**Town Officials: None**

**Others Present: None**

## **Agenda**

**Review and approval of minutes: The minutes of the April 20 committee meeting were approved as amended.**

**Executive Session: The scheduled Executive Session with the Town Administrator with regard to potential land acquisition was not held**

because preliminary discussions concerning the potential purchase are still ongoing.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Site visit to Albro Woods/Boulevard Nurseries/Tibbets Farm on May 5.** Four members walked the properties in a good but wet visit. There is a nice walking path through the woods that was being used by town residents during the visit. The woods themselves are not actively maintained but are left in their natural state.

- **Meeting of Aquidneck Island Communities Open Space Committees.** The committee continues to believe a joint meeting would be useful. Mason will send a letter to the chairman of the Newport and Portsmouth committees and report to the committee on their responses.

The Aquidneck Island Planning Committee (AIPC) is hosting a dinner on June 1 to honor Dr. Bob Quigley and to provide information on the AIPC activities. All committee members are invited but need to RSVP by May 30.

- **Digital File Sharing.** Anne is continuing to work on this project. When complete, the information will be made available on a website that she will establish.

- **Park Steward Program.** Action by the Town Council on the establish of a Park Steward Program has been delayed until June to permit the Town Counsel to review the proposal. Mason will contact the Town Administrator to determine if it can be placed on the June 6 docket of

the Council since there are individuals who have already volunteered to be stewards for certain of the parks.

- **Properties Updates.**

- o Acquisition of properties adjacent to Howland Park is still being considered. It was noted that the Aquidneck Land Trust may assist in the purchase if the decision is made to go forward.

- o The Tree Commission is looking at planting trees next spring at Oliphant Playground to provide shade.

- o Windblown trash from the adjacent shopping center continues to be a problem at the Valley. It is quite unsightly, but because access to the property is restricted removal is difficult.

- o Because of their deteriorated condition, the bleachers at Berkley-Peckham Field had been removed and been temporarily replaced by portable metal bleachers. With the removal of the bleachers, the restrooms were also removed; they have been replaced by port-a-johns. The permanent bleachers and restrooms are to be replaced, but the timing of their replacement is unknown. Mason will send a note to the Public Works and Parks and Recreation Directors to determine when they will be replaced.

**New Business:**

- **Site Visits to Other Middletown Parks.** It was decided to conduct a visit to Paradise Park. Mason will coordinate the date and time for the visit with the Middletown Historical Society.

- **Proposed Agenda Items for June 15 Meeting.**

- o Executive session on land acquisition**
- o Update on Park Steward Program**
- o Site visit to other Middletown parks.**
- o Meeting of Aquidneck Island Communities Open Space Committees**
- o Replacement schedule for Berkeley-Peckham Field bleachers and restrooms**
- o Properties updates**

**Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the committee will be at 5 p.m., June 15, 2011, in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station.**

**Ralph Thomas**

**Recording Secretary**